



February, 1997

Volume XXVIII Number 1

FREE

Angry Neighbors Push For Nightclubs' Ouster

By Michael Mattis

A coalition of neighbors is crusading to oust two nightclubs on the north slope of Potrero Hill that they charge are hubs of noise, vandalism, violence, and other disturbances.

The neighbors, with help from the Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants Assn., have drawn up a petition and gathered more than 500 signatures to present to city officials calling for the revocation of the clubs' permits.

While neighbors say they have had problems with the clubs for years, the last straw came at Christmastime, after one man was shot dead following a melee at one club and a near riot erupted in the street in front of the other.

The clubs in question are Le Club Touche, at 300 De Haro St., and the Sahara, located in the old Western Can warehouse at 444 De Haro St.

"For the last four years it's been hellish on Friday and Saturday nights," said 16-year Rhode Island Street resident John Tricamo.

In the wee hours of Christmas Day, according to police, a fight broke out at the Touche, during which two men were stabbed. A short while later, Hiep Van Trinh, a 26-year-old Oakland man, was shot and killed a few yards from the club's front door. No suspects had been arrested at View press time.

Police have said they believe the club to be a gang hangout with a history of gang-related violence. A review of police records shows that, between Sept. 3 and Dec. 25 of last year, there have been at least nine reports of criminal activity in or around 300 De Haro St. Reported incidents include grand theft, arson, two incidents of petty theft, two incidents of aggravated assault, and three incidents of battery, in addition to the stabbings and murder.

Later on Christmas day, police said, an assault at the Sahara, one block south of the Touche, led to what residents described as a riot that lasted through the night. Sahara owner Mufid Shehadeh, in a telephone interview from his Belmont home, attempted to downplay the incident. "Up to 11 p.m. everything was beautiful," he said, "After 11, I saw crowds coming who were not behaving." Shehadeh said he then moved to close down the club. "Police shut down the party, everybody went home safely, no riot like they said in the paper," he said.

A record of police calls that evening, however, tells a different story. A transcript of radio calls to and from Potrero Station includes several calls for backup, a call for a bullhorn to be brought to the scene, and a call for "all units" to meet at the scene with "hats and bats," police jargon for riot helmets and night sticks. According to police, 22 cars were eventually called in to disperse the crowd, estimated to be between 400 and 500 people.

"At 11:30 p.m. I went out and saw the crowds milling along the street and the cars going back and forth and the kids screaming and yelling at one another," said Tricamo. He said the incident kept him and his wife, Joan, up all night.

Shortly after the Christmas incidents, concerned neighbors banded together to drum up support to try and get the clubs' permits revoked. Gregg Stouffer and his roommate, Kelly Keith, had several hundred flyers printed, which they distributed around the Hill. The flyers invited neighbors to a meeting held in Keith's garage on Rhode Island St. Dec. 30.

More than 150 people squeezed into the garage and spilled out onto the street, primarily neighbors, but also reporters from both the city's dailies, radio and TV reporters, and police from Potrero Station.

(Continued on Page 4)

MAKING A POINT AT NEW POTRERO STATION



Artists Cheryl Riley and Buddy Rhodes put the finishing touches on a sculpture to be installed in the lobby of the new Potrero Police Station. The opening dedication takes place on Monday, February 24 at 3:30 p.m.

Even Though Beat Patrols Are Gone from the Hill, Potrero Station's Captain Says Staffing Level Okay

By Lysa Allman

Is there currently enough police coverage for the Potrero District?

Captain Sylvia Harper, who resides in the district, said there are always at least five cars covering all five sectors of the district, depending on the time of day. With roughly half the 86 regular officers deployed from the station on duty, and auxiliary officers who duplicate areas, there is sufficient coverage, she said.

"We are on a 24-hour schedule. Day-watch starts at 6 a.m. At 11 a.m. another watch is added, and the bulk of the officers are at night. So at 4 p.m. we have probably about two-thirds of the officers in the station working," Harper pointed out. And although the morning officers may

be going home in the afternoon, (officers currently work 10 hour shifts), the 11 a.m. shift officers overlap.

"If there is a crucial incident or they need additional help, other officers will leave their assigned areas and go assist," Harper said. "So even if we say there are only one or two cars (on patrol), I don't want there to be this perception that there's not enough officers, because there are," she added. Harper further explained that officers from other districts, the Mission, Southern (the Hall of Justice), and Ingleside, which are the surrounding stations, and from all over the city, are available to respond, should a major incident occur where extra assistance is needed.

Although residents and merchants may feel more comfortable finding foot, or "beat" patrols, they have been

discontinued on the Hill due to its geography, Harper admitted.

"When I came in February (1996) and looked at the demographics and the geography, I did assign a bicycle officer up in that area to replace the beat officer because they could get around faster," Harper noted. "But because of the hills, it wasn't conducive for him to be riding, and he couldn't respond. So for that reason I had to discontinue that."

In addition to regular patrols, which use the same officers as often as possible to promote familiarity within the area and among the public, there are also a number of detail patrols. For example, the housing police handle the various public housing projects. "I do have two officers who have been working with the community," Harper explained, "and I think they do have

really good rapport with the people. Both of them are making great strides to connect."

The Muni detail handles primarily the bus and other related problematic areas, and school officers handle issues in and around the schools from 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. There are also park officers, who patrol in a Chevy Blazer, for the various parks. And for special operations or investigations, inspectors and plainclothes officers from various units will also be in the district. "There is a lot of crossover," she said.

Given the population of the district, the number of officers, and the types of crimes dealt with, Harper is very proud of the station's response record to urgent calls. "The priority runs are A's, B's, and C's. A's you have to

(Continued on Page 4)

ONCE UPON A TIME, (LIKE, 1978), POTRERO HILL WAS FULL OF VACANT LAND... THEN CAME VICTORIA MAWS... THE WISCONSIN ST. CLONES... THE UPENDED TRAILERS AT 18TH + ARKANSAS... TODAY, WITH NEARLY EVERY LOT FILLED, ONLY **ONE SITE** REMAINS FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT:



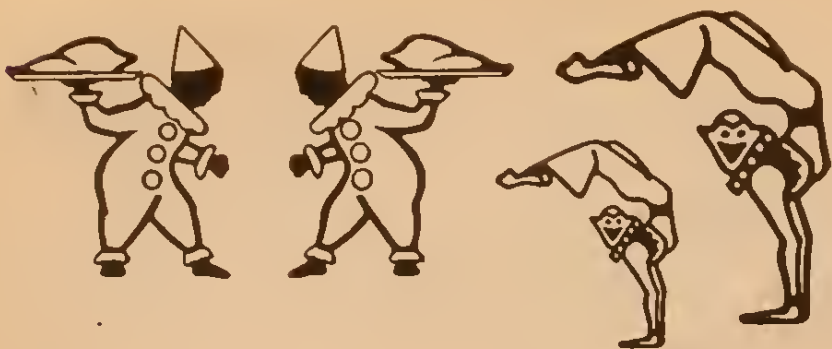
Not So Fast!

Now that Mayor Willie Brown's former campaign consultant Jack Davis has persuaded the Mayor to switch sides on whether Home Depot should make its home on Pier 80, it appears that Hill activists should be careful not to blink. If they do, they might find Home Depot up and running before they know it.

Two years ago, when the massive Home Depot store was proposed for the south side of the Mission Bay Development, Potrero Hill activists played a key role in ensuring that extensive community involvement and a full public hearing process would be required before any proposal became reality. And when Brown ran for Mayor, he voiced numerous concerns about — and even opposition to — such huge enterprises as Home Depot.

Now that Davis is on the Home Depot payroll, however, the Mayor is not only supporting its construction at Pier 80, but he is putting it on the fastest track possible. A recent article in the San Francisco Examiner notes that Brown now says that Home Depot can put up a store . . . in 90 days.

That would certainly provide little time for the sort of environmental review, traffic studies, and other evaluations of Home Depot's impact on Potrero Hill and that surrounding area. Whether or not one supports its eventual construction, we urge Hill residents to insist on a full review process, complete with community involvement, before any final decision is made.



Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

EDITOR: Ruth Passen ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Judy Baston
EDITORIAL BOARD: Vas Arnautoff, Judy Baston, Ruth Passen

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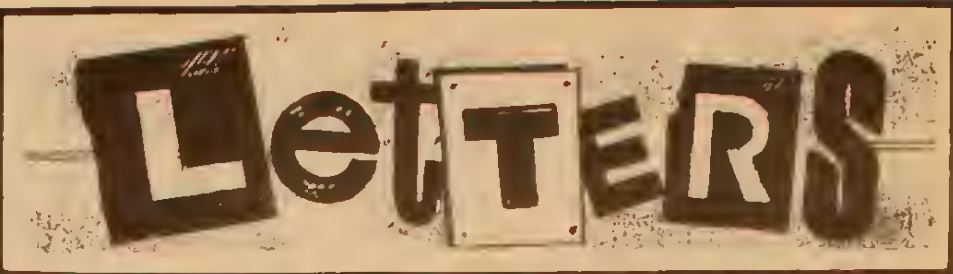
Address all correspondence to THE POTRERO VIEW

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Live/Work?

Editor:

I would like to alert the community of Potrero Hill to the current application by developers for the building of two high density developments who unbelievably wish to build 27 units with 14 parking spaces and 29 units with 17 parking spaces under the category "live/work":

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - 1001 MARIPOSA/208PENNSYLVANIA - POTRERO HILL PROJECT TITLE 96,685E

I think it is important that our community respond to this proposal for the following reasons:

1) unreasonable living/parking ratio — there is the assumption that half of the residents will have no cars — "very ecological" and the other half have only one car per unit, with the

remainder of the parking to be on the Hill;

2) "live/work" — this category is getting a lot of use on the Hill, the assumption being that these units will be for people who make their livelihood as artists and artisans. There is no monitoring of the actual use of these units once they are sold, leased or rented — witness the 18th Street projects. Live/work is a wonderful concept but developers have rightly understood that this category allows them not to comply with traditional building/zoning requirements which, to some degree, protect our existing communities.

To protest the environmental impact of this proposed development, contact Caron Parker, San Francisco Planning Dept.: 558-6386.

Andrea Cochran
Texas Street

GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (Feb. 6) with members of the San Francisco Police Dept., to discuss issues of public concern. This month's topic: The Potrero Police District's Crime Resolution Plan and a public evaluation of results. The meetings take place in the Southeast Community Facility at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps.

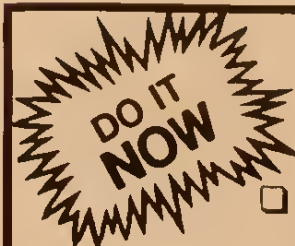
Potrero Hill Parents Assn. announces the 5th annual kids fair, an opportunity for parents to learn of the many pre-school situations available throughout the city. Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park; Wednesday, Feb. 5, 6-9 p.m. For info call 563-1041. On Sat., Feb. 22, PHPA will sponsor a social lunch for parents and kids; 12:30 p.m. at Connecticut Yankee, Connecticut and 17th Sts. RSVP: Maria Cristini, 648-0705, or Dave Matsuda, 285-6817. On Thurs., Feb. 27, PHPA will hold an organizing meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Connecticut Yankee.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the second Monday of the month (Feb. 10) from 6-7 p.m. Meetings are held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin St., and are open to the public. This month's agenda will include: staffing, budget and new health initiatives.

Starr King Park Board meets the second Wednesday of each month (Feb. 12) in the Potrero Hill Library meeting room at 1616-20th St., at 7 p.m. Still seeking volunteers to enlarge the board. All are welcome. The Saturday a.m. planting and maintenance work party will gather at 10:30 in the Park.

Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants meet the last Tuesday of the month (Feb. 25) at 7:30 p.m. in the Potrero Hill Library meeting room, 1616-20th St.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets the third Wednesday of each month (Executive Committee only this month). Public meetings are held in the Jackson Playground at 18th and Mariposa in alternate months. For details call Elizabeth at 826-6359.



Have The Potrero View Delivered to You!

- ☐ Yes! I want "The View" delivered to my home for a full year (11 issues).
☐ \$10.00 check enclosed.

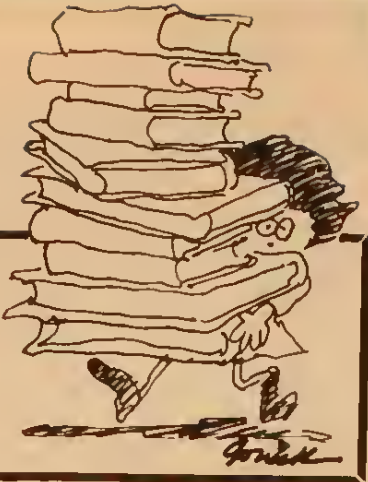
Name _____

Address _____

953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

LIBRARY NEWS
POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. • 695-6640

Closed Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 9 pm
Wednesday: 1 pm - 9 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: Noon - 6 pm



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH
PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Celebrate Black History Month with us at Potrero Branch! This is a yearly tradition that gives us great pleasure. Black History Month offers an opportunity to honor with performances and programs the authentic history of the contributions and struggles of the Black nationality in the United States and abroad. This year, we will host two such events, one for children and one for adults.

TUREEDA—STORYTELLER

On Saturday, February 8, at 4 p.m., gather in a circle to listen as Tureeda recounts stories in the African-American tradition for children of all ages.

LANGSTON HUGHES' "THE BLUES I'M
PLAYING" REVISITS POTRERO

If you haven't caught Langston Hughes' "The Blues I'm Playing" by the acclaimed performance company, "Word for Word," don't miss the upcoming performance of this work on Saturday, February 15, at 4 p.m. at the Potrero Branch. "Blues" is a satire of the price exacted in the form of race and class prejudice for high society's patronage of the arts, particularly as it affects the career of a Black woman musician. Not to be missed!

WHITHER SFPL? YOUR CALL.

What will the SFPL's budget crisis mean for service to the branches? Many patrons have expressed their concerns about service at the Main and resources for the branches. Your visible and audible demands for fully publicly-funded services and programs is the only wedge against continued attacks on staffing levels, programs, service, and the public character of the library's mission. Your library card entitles you to an active voice in the future of library service. Use — don't lose — that voice!

POTRERO HILL ARTISTS EXHIBITION
TURNS 42 IN APRIL

This year's Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition will open its 42nd year here on Saturday, April 5. A reception for the artists, featuring the very popular Billy Dunn Dance Band, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Artists who live or work on Potrero Hill may submit two works, ready for hanging, no later than Tuesday, April 1 at 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Robert Whaley at (415) 255-2382.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Infant-Toddler Lapsits are every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Preschool Story Times are every Thursday at 4 p.m. The film "Keeping House" will be shown on Tuesday, April 4, at 10 a.m., and Wednesday, April 5, at 7 p.m.

WHAT IS YOUR PLEASURE?

We plan to move the Preschool Story Time event to Saturdays at 4 p.m. beginning in April. Once a month, we would provide a children's program with an invited presenter or performer in place of Story Time. We would like to hear from parents of preschool-aged children about this proposed change.

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS. . .

Thank you to the dozens of patrons who brought us holiday cheer in the form of cards, spoken wishes, and other tokens of appreciation. The holidays would not have been the same without you, and the continuity from year to year that all of you — new friends and old — have brought to the branch. We wish you the best in 1997.

COMING ATTRACTIONS — LEASED
BOOKS ON ORDER

As many of you know, there are currently constraints on ordering new materials resulting from the library's budget crisis. The following are leased books, which will continue to be ordered:

- * Bauman, Lawrence, Ph.D. with Robert Riche. "The Ten Most Troublesome Teenage Problems and How to Solve Them" Experienced therapist Larry Bauman has worked with more than 100 teenagers and their families to help resolve the common problems of the teen years. He shows parents the common threads running through parent-teen relationships.
- * Harbury, Jennifer K. "Searching for Everardo: a Story of Love, War, and the CIA in Guatemala." Details Harbury's grueling search for her husband, a Guatemalan guerilla and political leader who vanished in 1992.

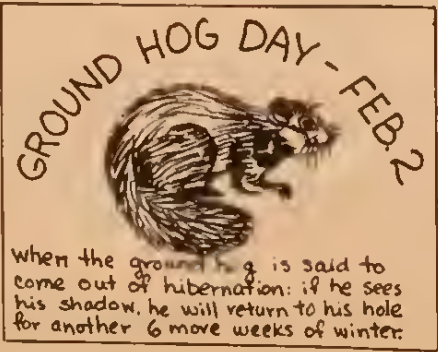
* Farrow, Mia. "What Falls Away: a Memoir by Mia Farrow." Farrow writes about her life: growing up in Hollywood, polio at age nine, her relationships with Salvador Dali, Frank Sinatra, Andre Previn and Woody Allen, and life today.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON
ORDER FOR CHILDREN

Children's books are continuing to be ordered in compliance with a children's services charter amendment that provides funding.

- * Bang, Molly. "Goose"
- * Kroeger, Mary Kay. "Paperboy"
- * Pelletier, David. "The Graphic Alphabet"
- * Schaefer, Carole Lexa. "The Squiggle"
- * Stanley, Diane. "Saving Sweetness"

Toba Singer
Branch Librarian



TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

MIDDLE SCHOOL ASBESTOS CONTROVERSY:

Concern among teachers and staff at the Potrero Hill Middle School was growing in early 1987 over a report that serious asbestos hazards persisted at the school. The report was by Jim Fite, Executive Director of the White Lung Association, who was acting in his capacity as a consultant to the S.F. Unified School District. Fite could find no records of asbestos abatement at the Middle School, although the district had found the school free of the material in 1983. School Board members Libby Denebeim and Joanne Miller stated that there was a need for the district to appropriate funds for extensive air sampling.

MISSION BAY PLAN RAISES QUESTIONS:

The City Planning Department's long-awaited draft plan for Mission Bay was released in January and produced far more questions than answers, according to The View. These questions concerned the possibility of a baseball stadium at Seventh and Townsend Streets (a proposal many had thought had died), the types of jobs to be created by the development, affordable housing ("affordable to whom?"), and schools (should a school be built to attract families or should construction wait until there's a demonstrable need?).

AN EIGHT MONTH PEACE TREK:

Hill resident Bill Jensen made his first trip to the East Coast in 1986. Nothing unusual in that, except that he did it on foot, taking eight months, and it cost him \$3,000. And he would do it again if the occasion arose, he told The View. Jensen, a peace activist of the 1960s, was one of 1,300 who responded to a call by the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament, which planned to cross the country from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. About 500 people from all 50 states and 12 foreign countries finished the trek, averaging 16 to 24 miles a day, six days a week, and the group tripled in size as it moved from New York City to a "joyous reception in the nation's capital."

THIS AND THAT:

View cartoonist Larry Gonick, author of the "Cartoon History of the Universe" and "The Cartoon Guide to Computer Science," was celebrating the publication of his latest book, "The Cartoon Guide to U.S. History, Volume I" . . . The City's Department of Public Works announced the imminent completion of an irrigation system to aid the beautification of the median strip on Carolina St. between 22nd and 23rd . . . Hill sculptor Ruth Cravath was eulogized upon her death at 84 . . . Three St. Teresa's parishioners provided eyewitness reports of human rights abuses in El Salvador . . . Nabe Executive Director Enola Maxwell and the Nabe's Social Development director Lori Jean Robinson were among 20,000 marchers demonstrating against racism and injustice in Forsyth County, Georgia . . . A special series on papermaking was being offered at the Nabe by artist-in-residence Andrea Tucker-Hody . . . The Lorraine Hansberry Theater's West Coast premiere of Maria Irene Fornes' "Sarita" was playing at the Nabe's Theater . . . Martin de Porres House of Hospitality on Potrero Ave. was the recipient of a donation of \$5,100 — \$100 for each time the S.F. 49ers had sacked an opposing quarterback that season . . . Girls' sports teams at Potrero Hill Middle School won two city championships — Division A of the Girls Softball League and in basketball. The basketball team further distinguished itself by posting a 3.1 grade point average . . .

AND 20 YEARS AGO:

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, designed by Julia Morgan, was granted landmark status by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board of the S.F. Dept. of City Planning . . . And View staffer Winifred Mann reported a startling sight in Paris — a bumper strip reading "I Left My Heart on Potrero Hill."



Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107
(415) 826-8080
Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Al-Anon | Thursdays, 6:30 pm |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Sun, 8:00 pm/Mon & Thurs, 8:30 pm |
| Girls/Boys Club | Mondays, 4:00 pm |
| Narcotics Anonymous | Wednesdays, 8:00 pm |
| Omega Boys Club | Tuesdays, 7:30 pm |

FACILITIES:

Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops and receptions
Bulletin board with employment and event listings
Gymnasium and recreational space
Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
Mini-park

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES:

- After School/Summer Youth Activities
- Arts and Crafts
- Food Distribution
- Gang Prevention
- Girls/Boys Club
- Graffiti Paint Out
- Juvenile Probation
- Home Supervision
- Peer Counseling
- MET Theatre Ensemble
- Senior Nurturing Program
- Social Development Center
- Tutoring Program
- Youth Employment
- MYEEP/SYETP
- Job Readiness
- ZAP Project (substance abuse day treatment for adolescents)

All services and activities FREE
Member agency of the United Way of the Bay Area
The NABE is wheelchair accessible. If you have the need for the services of a certified American Sign Language interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or meeting in an alternative format please contact (415) 826-8080 at least three working days prior.

Neighbors Demand Clubs' Ouster

(Continued from Page 1)

Potrero Station Captain Sylvia Harper listened as fed-up Hill residents aired their concerns about the noise, traffic hassles and violence they believe emanate from the clubs.

"Once a permit has been granted it's very difficult to get it revoked," said Harper, who noted that Potrero Station has had to beef-up patrols around the clubs. "The citizens have to come forward and testify."

During the meeting, representatives from the Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants read and circulated a petition urging city officials to yank the clubs' permits.

"On Christmas Eve the peace and tranquility over Potrero Hill was abruptly shattered by a hail of gunfire, which woke hundreds of residents and left one man shot dead," read the petition. "The next night residents were again disturbed by shattering glass, loud yelling, engines gunning and horns. We are outraged that our neighborhood has been invaded by murderers, other criminals and irresponsible individuals who patronize Sahara and Club Touche. We therefore demand that the cabaret licenses of these two businesses be immediately and permanently revoked to restore peace and tranquility to Potrero Hill."

There were 160 signatures gathered at the meeting. About 600 signatures had been gathered at View press time.

Shehadeh told The View that he feels his business has been singled out unfairly, and that neighbors have it wrong when they say Sahara is a hub of noise and criminal activity. He said he has gathered 500 signatures in a counter-petition of his own.

"My place is not a nightclub," said Shehadeh. "My place is a restaurant open for special events. I can tell you that in five years we had maybe one or two disorders," he said.

According to police records, however, there were at least 12 incidents involving law enforcement in or around 444 De Haro since Sept. 3, not including the Christmas Day incidents. This list includes possession of narcotics, refusal to disperse, pickpocketing, petty theft, interfering with a police officer, assault on a police officer, exhibiting a deadly weapon, disturbing the peace by fighting, two incidents of malicious mischief and two of battery.

While the report didn't indicate the Sahara as the definite source of the disturbances, the majority of the incidents occurred around midnight, when the Sahara is in full operation.

Shehadeh was served eviction papers Oct. 30 of last year by the landlord at 444 De Haro, Insignia Commercial Group. The case is set to go to court Feb. 3. Several Hill residents who live near the club have been subpoenaed to testify on the landlord's behalf.

Shehadeh told The View he believes the landlord is in cahoots with the neighborhood, and that the petition drive was really instigated by the landlord. He also claims both the neighborhood and the landlord have racist motives in trying to oust his business from the Hill.

Potrero Hill residents find both charges ludicrous. "When I'm in my house and I hear noise and gunshots and I dial 911, I don't have time to check the race or ethnicity of the people involved," said Keith.

Business owners in the area have also voiced concerns about the two clubs. Joe Talmadge told The View he would like to keep his World Gym — across the street from the Touche — open 24 hours, but is concerned for his patrons' safety.

Talmadge said he has witnessed several "problematic incidents," including violence, vandalism and garbage strewn in the street by club patrons. He says having to close earlier than other gyms has hurt his business.

The Metronome Ballroom, a school for ballroom dance that stands between the Sahara and the Touche, has hired a security guard to escort patrons to and from their cars at night.

Just as The View was going to press, a crowd of more than 150 gathered at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Jan. 30 to air their viewpoints before Supervisor Tom Ammiano and other city officials.

Medi-Cal Recipients Need to Make Careful Choices

Potrero Hill residents who receive AFDC MediCal, as well as some other MediCal recipients, have to make a very important choice about their future health care.

Many people may have already been sent special forms to choose a MediCal Managed Care Plan. Others will be receiving them over the next couple of months.

Please read these forms carefully, and talk to your doctor or other health care provider staff as soon as possible. If you are one of these MediCal recipients, you must choose one of the two Managed Care plans, and a clinic and doctor.

If you don't choose, the system will choose for you. And you may be assigned to a new doctor or clinic.

If you want to keep seeing your doctor, you must write your doctor's name and the clinic name on the form. For Potrero Hill residents who see a doctor or other provider at Potrero Hill Health Center, this means you must choose the S.F. Health Plan as your Plan.

If you have questions, or think you may have thrown out your notice without reading it carefully, call the Health Center at 648-3022 for help with your enrollment.

| | Sept-Dec. 1995 | Sept-Dec. 1996 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Homicide | 1 | 3 |
| Rape | 3 | 1 |
| Robbery | 58 | 17 |
| Aggravated Assault | 68 | 62 |
| Petty/Grand Theft* | 137 | 97 |
| Auto Theft | 208 | 208 |
| Others ** | 438 | 420 |

- * Thefts other than from your home
- ** Anything that is not a major crime, i.e. fraud, prostitution, defrauding a taxi, etc.

Police, cont.

(Continued from Page 1)

respond to immediately — urgent or crime in progress. The B runs are not as severe, but you need to get there as soon as possible. The C's are your nuisance calls, noise complaints, etc. Our Station, on the A runs alone, is in first place out of 10 stations on midnights. Second on daywatch, and third on swing (shift). We get a lot of serious A calls."

Overall, crime on the Hill has dropped in most categories for the last part of 1996, compared to the same period in 1995. The preliminary figures for Potrero Hill only (which the department considers the borders to be 16th Street, the 101 freeway, 25th Street, and the 280 freeway), are reflected in the chart at left.

In February the Potrero Station will be moving from its current location at 20th and Third Streets to a bigger, more modern station in roughly the center of the Potrero District in the Bayview, at 201 Williams near Newhall, off Third Street. Harper perceives the move as a milestone, and says it will not affect coverage on the Hill or anywhere else within the district.

Captain Harper encourages the public to contact her directly with questions or concerns at 553-1066.

Learning for the Whole Self



"Learning for the Whole Self"?

Yes, indeed! At St. Gregory's, "learning" means more than knowledge. It means enlarging and extending one's whole life. It means *self-learning*, engaging and illuminating who you are. Most of all, it means speaking to every aspect of the self: heart, mind, body, spirit and imagination. Come join us and find out what real learning can be like!

God is an Artist: Creativity and Spirituality

Weds., 7:30 pm, February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19

Come together with working artists whose art is a spiritual path, listen to one another's experiences, and engage in creative exercises during class time.

Gregory of Nyssa, God's Friend

Mon., 7:30 pm, March 3 and 10

The teachings and spirit of St. Gregory of Nyssa are at the heart of St. Gregory's Church. Learn more about who he was and how his teaching shapes who we are.

Jesus and Paul

Mon., April 7, 7:30 pm, Sat., April 12, 10, 9:30 am

Jesus and Paul challenged the religious notions of their age and ours. New critical scholarship brings these teachers freshly alive in all the revolutionary power that can transform your life.

Following the Way: The Mystical Path of the Ordinary (A Sufi Parable)

Mon., 7:30 pm, April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19

This powerful teaching parable is about discovering the mystical dimension of everyday experiences. Its five simple steps can change the entire meaning of your life.

Two Great Universalists: Julian and Dostoevski

Wed., 7:30 pm, May 7, 21, June 4, 18

Julian of Norwich's *Showings* and Fyodor Dostoevski's *The Brothers Karamazov* will throw new light on the great questions of freedom and human suffering.

Especially for Couples

Weds., 7:30 pm, April 2, 16, 30, May 14, 28, June 11

We meet for mutual support and to deepen the quality of our relationships via reading, films and discussion. All couples, married or unmarried, gay or straight, welcome.



St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
500 De Haro Street (on Potrero Hill)
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4. Lenten Evening Mass 6PM Thursday evenings - February 20-March 20 Followed by Soup Supper in the Hall

'Seed Money' Possible for Esprit Park

By Vas Arnautoff

Put off by the price tag Esprit is putting on its park at the foot of Potrero Hill, the Citizens Advisory Committee of San Francisco's Recreation and Parks Department has opted to recommend a grant of "seed money" from the department's Open Space Fund to stimulate donations by private funds and foundations for the acquisition of the property.

At issue is the city block on Minnesota Street between 19th and 20th Sts., which the previous owners of Esprit de Corp. had developed into a park in 1982. It's an 80,000 square foot preserve designed in "English Parkland" style containing mature plantings of native trees and shrubs. It also has a running track, benches, picnic tables, parcourse fitness stations, a grass tennis court, more than an acre of open lawn, and has occasionally served as a venue for the display of monumental sculpture.

The current management of Esprit is considering selling the property and has set a price of \$3.2 to \$4 million on it, with a possible discount if the City acquires it. City sources feel \$1.6 million is a more realistic figure.

San Francisco's Open Space Program is administered by the Recreation and Parks Department with funds mandated by voters in 1988. Program revenues for 1996-97 are estimated to total \$16 million, of which at least one-fourth is earmarked for acquisition and development. Meeting Esprit's price for the property would decimate the acquisition funds for the entire year.

In view of the new development, "Friends of Esprit Park", headed by landscape architect Andrew Detsch, who designed the facility, has broadened its focus to include other funding sources. The group is contacting private foundations and has asked for help from the National Trust for Public Land. Park advocate Supervisor Sue Bierman has also indicated an interest in helping.

Final determination of the City's role in the funding of Esprit Park is expected in mid-or late February.

The phone number for "Friends of Esprit Park" is (415) 243-0940.

LABOR HISTORY MURAL UNVEILED



Murals depicting the history of labor unions that had offices in the Red Stone Labor Temple, 2948-16th St. (at Capp St.), officially opened to the general public after an informal dedication Jan. 25. The effort has been a collaborative work with the Clarion Alley Mural Project and The LAB. Murals include those depicting emigration; the Filipino-American seniors dances that were held in the building in the 1980s; the 15-year history of the Theatre Rhinoceros; activities of sign painters' Local #510; the women's bindery workers union in the early 1920s; the General Strike of 1934; the organization of the Chinese women's garment workers in 1938; the hotel and department store strikes of the early 1940s, and the story of Painters Union #4 Recording Secretary Dow Wilson, who was murdered at the corner of 16th St. and So. Van Ness in 1966. The mural pictured above is by artist Susan Greene, and depicts the Service Employees International Union (S.E.I.U.).

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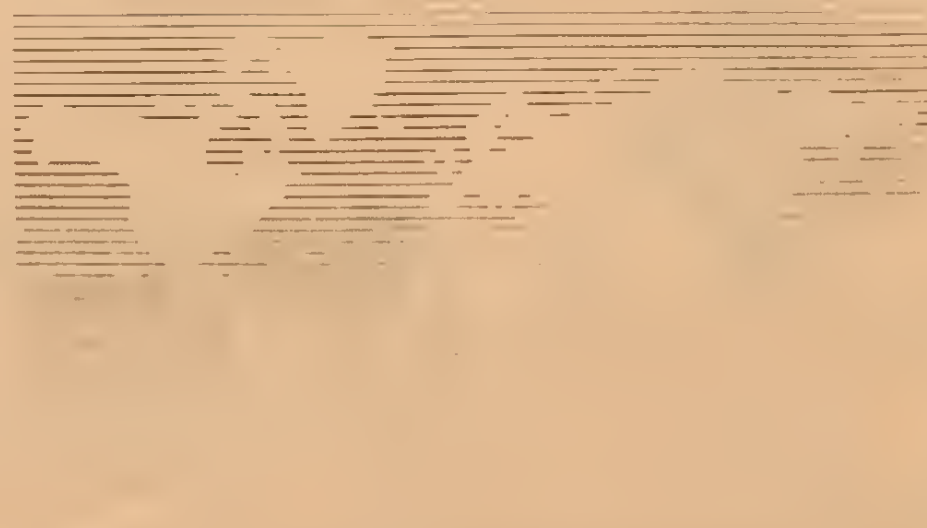
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Plans for Islais Creek Park, Labor Museum, Boat Ramp Moving Ahead

By Carol Peterson

Friends of Islais Creek, a volunteer organization from the Bayview/Hunter's Point District, is rapidly moving forward on its plans to change the Islais Creek Channel. Islais Creek runs to the bay, crossing Third Street, south of Cesar Chavez (formerly Army Street) and north of India Basin.

Their project, which has been in the works for several years, seeks to have the channel's Copra Crane designated a national labor landmark, build a boat ramp and beautify the channel with a mini-park. This plan has gained much support from the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), CalTrans, and Muni, among other groups.

The Copra Crane, which has not been in use since the '70s, was a custom-built structure designed to easily off-load copra, the meat of the coconut. This was then pressed to extract the oil,

which was used in foods, soap and other products. Copra production has been reduced greatly in this country, since, among other reasons, coconut oil is very high in cholesterol.

Now owned by the San Francisco Municipal Railway, the Copra Crane is soon to be granted National Labor Landmark status. A shack used by dispatchers will be restored and a labor museum created to highlight the importance of this part of local labor history. Much background information for this project has been gathered by Dr. Archie Green, Professor of Labor History, and Harvey Schwartz, author and oral historian.

Don Watson, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Labor Advisory Committee, is organizing the effort to find volunteers, especially anyone who may have working experience on the crane, pier, or adjoining Cargill warehouse. Friends of Islais Creek's Julia Viera added that the effort could use support from private industry in the immediate area.

The mini-park on the south side of the creek has almost reached completion. Workers and residents in this area can now sit at tables along the banks of the creek and enjoy its natural beauty. There are future plans for the south side of the creek, owned by the Department of Public Works (DPW) including a fishing pier and a small boat ramp. The area under the 280 freeway will be developed by CalTrans into a three-acre wildflower meadow and a recreated marsh. The north side of the creek will be graced with a 700 foot promenade, the museum, and, of course, the crane.

Martha Ketterer, DPW landscape architect on the Embarcadero, will coordinate the project. Indiana Street will be opened from Cesar Chavez Street to the banks of the creek. Viera would also like to eliminate the five billboards which currently look down on the channel.

Anyone interested in helping with this community project, or anyone who has personal knowledge of the copra operation there should contact Watson at (510) 652-3116 or (415) 775-0533. If you would like to maintain the park, Viera can be reached at (415) 826-5669.



The historic Copra Crane will remain permanently in the middle of Islais Creek.

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A celebration of Black History at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, Sunday, Feb. 16 offers: An exhibition by artists from the community and the S.F. Art Academy; science and computer demonstrations, artists and musicians; business and industry displays by local publishers and other business owners; performing artists, including the Nabe's dance groups, the Children's Gospel Choir, and the BALUE ACID ROCK band with Marcy Henderson. The event begins at 2 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$2 at the door.

The UCSF AIDS program offers a free community forum Feb. 11, from 6-8 p.m. at Carr Auditorium on the General Hospital Campus, 22nd Street and Potrero Avenue. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Call 476-4082, ext. 118.

The Neighborhood Elders' Support Team seeks volunteers to assist frail and home-bound seniors in Bernal Heights with rides, emergency food delivery, minor home repairs and companionship. Call Pat at 206-9177 for more info.

The S.F. Redevelopment Agency will host an open space discussion on the Mission Bay North development by Catellus Development Corp. Mission Bay North is the area north of Mission Creek generally bounded by Third, Seventh, Townsend and the Channel. This meeting will consider the proposed plan along with opinions from citizens attending. For more info contact David Prowler, Mission Bay Project Manager at 749-2580.

A Black History Month event to benefit Women Count Network-S.F., presents "An Evening of Black Film," Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. at New College, 777 Valencia St. The Women Count Network-S.F. is part of the international Women Count Network, which won an historic commitment from governments at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing to put an economic value on all the unwaged work women do. Suggested donations at the door are from \$10-25. Call 626-4114 for more info.

Senior citizens are invited to attend the Recreation and Park Dept.'s 20th Annual Valentine's Day Dance at the County Fair Bldg. on 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. The free dance will be held on Feb. 14, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. and features the live music of the Maury Wolohan Band. For more info call 666-7205.

Jewish Family and Children's Services is looking for volunteers to help seniors living in local nursing homes celebrate Purim, which takes place Mar. 16-23. All it takes is an hour to stop by for a friendly visit, based on volunteers' time availability. For info call Sheryl Groden, 561-1244.



A free calligraphy seminar takes place Feb. 7 and 21, 1-3 p.m. at the San Francisco Center for the Book, 300 De Haro St. Georgianna Greenwood, who has taught and practiced calligraphy in the Bay Area since 1964 will demonstrate the essentials of lettering and calligraphy. Call 565-0545 for more info.

Do you have an interest or background in contemporary art? Are you available during the day? Center for the Arts Yerba Buena Gardens is looking for volunteers to train as gallery tour guides. Part-timers and retirees are encouraged to apply. Training includes gallery walk-throughs and touring techniques. To volunteer call 978-2700.

Do you know that a one-of-a-kind exhibit, "The Hall of Fame Hall of Fame," is on view at the Center for the Arts Yerba Buena Gardens through Feb. 23? This exhibit has brought together unusual art and artifacts from over 50 Halls of Fame across the country, from baseball to the Kentucky Derby, from rock and roll to the hot dog. The galleries are located at 701 Mission St. (at Third Street). On the first Thursday of the month the gallery admission is free to all from 6-8 p.m. Seniors are offered free gallery admission on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Coming up at the Modern Times Bookstore are: An evening with author Julia Alvarez who will read from her latest work "Yo!" Alvarez' earlier books, "How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents" and "In the Time of Butterflies," have been best sellers. She will be at the bookstore Tues., Feb. 4. On Feb. 18 Kevin Danaher, co-director of the non-profit organization Global Exchange, will discuss the issues in the book "Corporations Are Going to Get Your Mama: Globalization and the Downsizing of the American Dream." Both events begin at 7:30 p.m. at the bookstore, 888 Valencia St. Call 282-9246 for more info.

Hill resident Margo Bors is currently exhibiting prints from her San Francisco Native Wildflowers collection at Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture at the Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. The gallery is open six days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

The Potrero Branch Library, 1616-20th St., hosts a program "Blues I'm Playin'," Saturday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m. The piece, based on a short story by Langston Hughes, will be performed by the Word for Word theater company. Call 695-6640 for more info.

"Sister Act," a cabaret show featuring four altos, will be presented Feb. 9 at St. Gregory's Church, 500 De Haro, at 5 p.m. Singers Ruth E. Wells, Julia A. Thompson, Harriet March Page, and Ruthann Lovetang will present music and songs by Johnny Mercer, Rogers and Hammerstein, and Leonard Bernstein. Tickets are \$12 with discounts for students and seniors. Call 255-8100 for more info.

Locally based Anchor Distilling Co. has issued a guide to places that feature their Single Malt Rye Whiskey "Old Potrero." The list of establishments offering their product range from those within San Francisco to places in Marin, Sonoma/Napa Valley, Washington, D.C., and in Maryland. For more info contact Anchor, 1705 Mariposa St., S.F. 94107.

Congrats to Lester Zeidman and Kayren Hudburgh who had a great write-up in San Francisco Business Times under the heading "Small Business Growth Strategies." The co-owners of the Good Life Grocery store on 20th Street are acting modest about their press coverage.

"The Black Experience in California" is the title of a lecture by John William Templeton on Feb. 27, at the Cannery, Leavenworth and Beach Sts. The evening's event is slated to begin at 7:15 p.m., and is sponsored by the San Francisco History Assn. Admission is free to members, and \$5 to the general public. Templeton is editor of GRIOT, the African-American-Caribbean Business Daily newspaper, and a contributing columnist for the S.F. Examiner.

"The Egyptian Marketplace in San Francisco" takes place Feb. 10-13 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 620 Seventh St. Admission is free. The exposition will feature Egyptian-made clothing, shoes, cookware, spices, furniture, and cosmetics, among many products, and music, dancing, food tastings, demonstrations and other cultural activities will take place throughout the four-day event. For info call 436-0633.

Jackson Playground at Arkansas & Mariposa Sts. invites seniors to join in a new Seniors Club meeting Tuesdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Van trips require a \$5 deposit one week in advance of a trip, and will be refunded on the day of the trip. Dues are 50¢ a week. Call 554-9527 for more info.

The art program at the Neighborhood House is looking for donations of pencils, pens, markers, old speakers, cardboard, beads, buttons, various types of wire, paint, string, cans, plastic containers, fabrics, posters, books and calendars. Art teacher Barrett Heaton will be happy to accept any donations, and answer questions about the program. Drop off items at 953 De Haro St., or call 826-8080 for info.

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"Follow Me Home" Sparks Debate About Race, Gender

By Julia Jaurigui

After being turned down by virtually every major distributor because his film had "no audience," filmmaker and San Francisco native Peter Bratt proved industry naysayers wrong and found a local distributor for "Follow Me Home," a low budget feature starring Benjamin Bratt (of NBC TV's "Law and Order"), Alfre Woodard ("Passion Fish") and Jesse Borrego ("Bound by Honor"). "Follow Me Home," which was produced, written and directed by Bratt, opens Friday, February 14 at the AMC Kabuki Theatre, 1881 Post Street.

Bratt, whose activist family has been involved in community and local politics for many years, began writing screenplays in 1988. Four years later, frustrated by the lack of Hollywood support for "Walkman," the story of a contemporary Native American struggling to overcome substance abuse, Peter and his brother Benjamin founded Chacras Filmworks to produce films with indigenous themes, histories and stories — subject matter that is rarely seen by the industry as commercially viable.

Throughout its short history, "Follow Me Home" has generated controversy and debate about issues raised in the film — race, gender and spirituality. And, debate is exactly what the local filmmaker was aiming for. "I wanted that, I did," Bratt says. "On the actual production, Alfre Woodward kept saying 'More than anything else in this country, there needs to be a dialogue on race relations.' And when you address these issues, it's going to spark debate."

"Follow Me Home," which is also Bratt's directorial debut, is an original

and entertaining allegorical tale of four young artists — an African American, two Chicanos and a Native American — who concoct a wild scheme to drive to Washington, D.C. and paint a mural on the side of the White House.

Shortly after taking to the road, Tudee, the group's leader — played by the sinewy and charismatic Jesse Borrego — suspects ancestral spirits are guiding the journey. Spiritual intervention, however, soon proves to be just one of the group's worries as Bratt's radical road movie places the young men at odds with each other and head to head with a few twisted characters they meet on the road. During their journey, seemingly by chance, the quartet are joined by Evey (Alfre Woodard), an enigmatic African American woman carrying a mysterious package, who is on a spiritual quest of her own.

Benjamin Bratt, almost transformed beyond recognition, delivers an inspired performance as Abel, a Chicano muralist whose anger, misogyny and appetite for violence can barely conceal his inner despair. Stunning imagery, a soundtrack of original music by Cyril Neville (of the Neville Brothers) and rap artist Speech and strong performances by the ensemble cast — which also includes Calvin Levels ("Johnny Suede") and Steve Reeves ("Dances with Wolves") — make "Follow Me Home" an enjoyable yet penetrating film about the far-reaching implications of colonialism, personal and spiritual transformation and race relations in the United States.

For more information or showtimes, please contact the AMC Kabuki 8 at (415) 931-9800.



Cast members of Peter Bratt's "Follow Me Home" include (left/right) Benjamin Bratt, Steve Reeves, Calvin Levels and Jesse Borrego.

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An original "lyrical story in song," will make its debut Feb. 14 at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. Written and scored by Mary E. Holland, and directed by Danny Duncan, "Every Now & Then" tells a story about two African-American couples. Performers pictured above include (L-R): Vernon Medearis, Andrea Brembry, Monique Dismuke, Marc Coleman, and Kalene Parker. Performances are scheduled Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Admission is \$10. Call 292-5157 for more information.

Don Lane photo

CELEBRATING 95 YEARS



Hill artist John Langley Howard will be honored by the Board of Supervisors on his 95th birthday Feb. 5. Howard has had a long career as a painter, and is the sole surviving painter of the fresco murals at Coit Tower.

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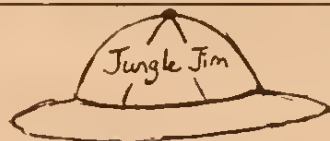
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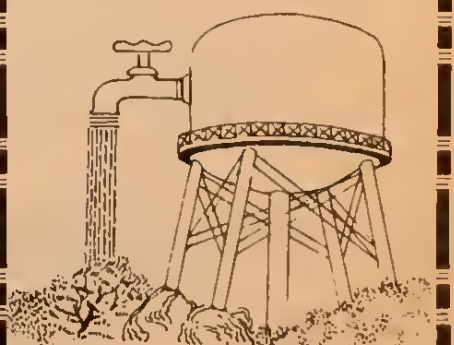
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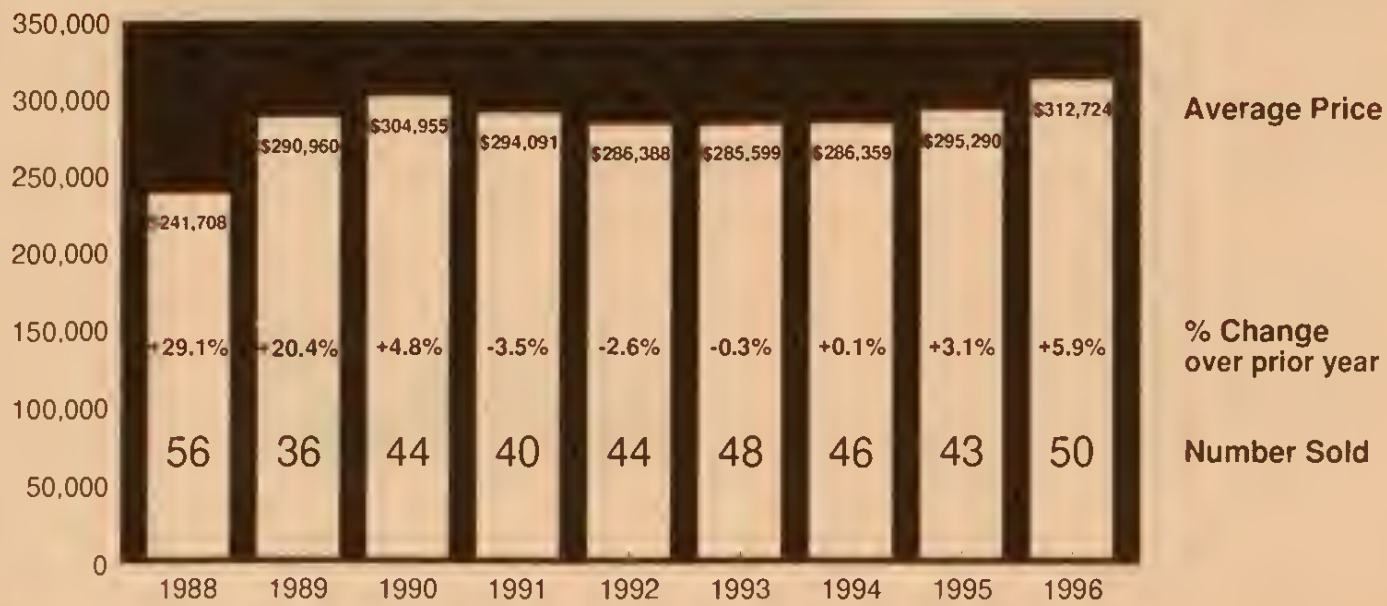
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